

Application of: John E. Johnson
Serial No.: 10/604,306
Amendment B

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1-18 stand rejected. The applicant hereby submits the above amendments and the below remarks, which are fully responsive to the Office Action. The applicant respectfully asserts that the claims are in condition for allowance. The applicant requests that the claims as amended proceed to allowance. Please enter the amendments as indicated herein.

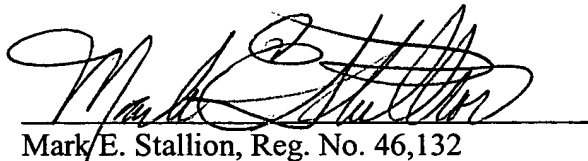
Independent claims 1, 6, 8, 14 and 17 are amended herein to recite a limitation for a rotatable shaft adapted to retract the cutting bit or cutting nozzle within the vacuum casing and extend beyond the vacuum casing. Independent Claim 12 has been amended to recite a limitation for a semi flexible worm feed and a spiral spring cutting head where the spiral spring varies in diameter. Independent Claim 18 has been amended such that the blade is fixedly attached. The references cited herein taken individually or in combination do not anticipate, teach or suggest these limitations. These amendments are consistent with the Examiner Interview conducted on April 26, 2005.

The applicant respectfully requests that claims 1 – 18 as amended be allowed and proceed to issuance. If any issue regarding the allowability of any of the pending claims in the present application could be readily resolved, or if other action could be taken to further advance this application such as an Examiner's amendment, or if the Examiner should have any questions regarding the present amendment, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner please telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney in this regard.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 03, 2005

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark E. Stallion", is written over a horizontal line.

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